



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 September 2007

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- *Computerworld* reports that fraud police do not possess the resources needed to handle the increase in data that accompanies increased financial fraud. While greater computing power has helped, some are calling for a greater degree of information sharing with private financial institutions, despite privacy concerns. (See item [11](#))
- *The Herald Times* reports that global climate change and a recent influx of a deadly fish virus are stressing the Great Lakes fisheries, thereby affecting the \$4 billion Great Lakes commercial and sport fisheries industry. Other habitat stressors have also lead to a decline in the fish population there. (See item [19](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#); [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical:** **ELEVATED**,
Cyber: **ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 26, Reuters* – (National) **Storms pose no risk to U.S. oil rigs in Gulf: NHC.** On Wednesday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) announced that the tropical depression expected in the Gulf of Mexico will not affect the U.S. oil and natural gas production in the area. The tropical storm Karen will not strengthen into a hurricane, according to weather models released by the center. The NHC also forecasted that tropical depression 13 will strengthen into a tropical storm, which the center named Lorenzo, but that it will not strengthen

into a hurricane before moving inland over central Mexico.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2646707520070926?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews&rpc=22&sp=true>

2. *September 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Energy roundup: Gasoline demand down.** Gasoline demand at the pump continued to fall as the last days of the summer driving season came to a close. A weekly survey by MasterCard SpendingPulse found U.S. motor gasoline demand in the week ending September 21 dropped by 695,000 barrels, or 1 percent, from the previous week. Demand was up 8.3 percent over the same week last year. The retail price for regular gas, at an average \$2.79 per gallon, lost 1 cent per gallon nationwide from the week ending Sept. 14. The price is 11.6 percent higher than a year ago. Prices ranged from \$2.71 per gallon in Gulf Coast states to \$2.89 per gallon on the West Coast. The study's author said prices over the last seven weeks have been "amazing in their stability" compared to the ups and downs many motorists sometimes saw on a monthly or even weekly basis.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/apwire/D8RSMHT00.htm>

3. *September 25, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **DOE, industry commit to greener data centers.** The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Green Grid, which includes representatives from major IT companies, issued a "memorandum of understanding to get data centers worldwide to implement energy-management programs and adopt clean-energy technologies." The two organizations are also planning on developing a common set of metrics, tools, and a website available to businesses. Other parts of the plan involve personnel training on how "to conduct energy-saving assessments and point research and development in a direction that would make data center operations more efficient." The assistant secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy reiterated the relevance of the data centers, which will "capture energy savings more easily."

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article103855-09-25-07-Web>

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Chemical Industry

4. *September 25, EPA Newsroom* – (National) **Protecting Americans through better chemical exposure monitoring.** The EPA has announced \$4 million in grants to five institutions that will work on improving biomonitoring, which is the measurement of toxins in people by testing specimens such as blood and urine. Such measuring is critical to tracking public health and establishing public health and environmental policies. The presence of a specific chemical is indicated by a biomarker. For example, cotinine is a biomarker of exposure to cigarette smoke. According to the EPA press release, much more work remains to be done to develop other reliable biomarkers, and these grants will further the endeavor.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/1030467a1758237785257361005818dc?OpenDocument>

5. *September 25, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Cleaning chemical causes evacuation scare at Benedict.** Emergency officials shut down classes and evacuated a building at

Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina on Tuesday after several people were hospitalized for breathing problems. The incident happened after a housekeeping associate mopped the second floor hallway. There is no word on what chemical is to blame.

Source:

<http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7124218&nav=0RaPbEdQ>

6. *September 25, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Chemical warehouse fire prompts evacuations.** On Tuesday, city officials asked people and nearby business to take shelter after a chemical warehouse fire broke out in a suburban Fort Worth industrial district. Officials feared that the smoke was becoming toxic. No injuries have been reported thus far.

Source:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5162841.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

7. *September 26, Huntsville Times* – (Southeast) **TVA likely to seek 2 new nuke plants.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) board is meeting on Thursday for the first time since 2002 to make a major decision about nuclear plant construction. TVA's board approved the \$1.8 billion restart project for the Unit 1 reactor at the Browns Ferry nuclear plant near Athens in its May 2002. This week, it is expected to move forward in applying to build up to two reactors at the Bellefonte site near Scottsboro. TVA is part of a consortium of 11 companies, dubbed Nu-Start Energy Development, seeking to build the first new nuclear reactors in the U.S. in a generation. The Bellefonte site was to become a TVA nuclear site, but rising nuclear plant construction costs in the 1980s canceled the project after \$4.1 billion had been spent. With support from the Bush administration and financial incentives approved by Congress, the nuclear power industry is looking to build a number of reactors in coming years. A key element of plant construction is a streamlined review process by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, industry officials have said.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/huntsvilletimes/index.ssf?/base/news/119079905294520.xml&coll=1>

8. *September 25, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Nuke dump structures moved after study.** Engineers moved some planned structures at the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump after rock samples indicated a fault line unexpectedly ran beneath their original location. A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in Las Vegas said adjustments to the project were made in June. The department responded to a published report that cited a May 21 letter in which U.S. Geological Survey maps showed the Bow Ridge fault "may be farther east than projected," running beneath the original dump location. The head of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects and the state's chief anti-Yucca administrator, said he was not reassured by what he called "just-in-time engineering," claiming that the incident "represents a complete lack of understanding about the site's characteristics." Recent rock core sampling operations have spurred a legal battle in federal court in Las Vegas, where the Nevada State Engineer has asked a U.S. District Judge to order the DOE to stop using Nevada water for cooling and lubricating drill rigs and creating mud to collect rock samples. The U.S. District Judge denied the state's request last week.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hTtUB8cJkytEK4xR4_LcGjzaP-kQ

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *September 25, Defense News* – (National) **Pentagon puts brakes on JLTV program.** The U.S. Army and Defense Department decided to freeze the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program until officials come up with new approaches to improve the program. Army officials are currently working on a new tactical wheeled vehicles strategy for developing a “more survivable light utility vehicle.” “The new tactical wheeled strategy, which will lay out requirements, expectations and capabilities for the JLTV, is expected sometime next year. Building a combat utility vehicle both strong enough to survive IED attacks and mobile enough to drive off-road and maneuver in urban areas will be difficult,” said the director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center, Forward. The officials are learning valuable lessons from present wars that they will incorporate into the new JLTV requirements, noted the Army representative.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3064422&C=america>

10. *September 25, Defense News* – (National) **Bath to build first DDG 1000.** The Navy announced that General Dynamics’ Bath Iron Works will build its first DDG 1000 destroyer in Maine. The Navy has estimated the ship’s price at \$3.3 billion, but private analysts have forecasted costs up to \$5 billion. The program includes the building of two ships, one of which will be designated as “the lead ship to receive Mission System Equipment (MSE), including the 155mm Advanced Gun System, undersea warfare systems, exterior communications and the total ship computing infrastructure.” The contracts for the program will go to Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics, announced Navy officials. Both ships are expected to be delivered in 2013.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3063969&C=america>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *September 26, Computerworld* – (National) **Fraud police buckling under mountains of data.** Increased financial fraud poses a problem to fraud investigators, who do not possess the necessary resources to deal with the amount of data sent by financial institutions. One of the approaches proposed by banks and other financial entities to ameliorate the problem is to have access to more detailed information about suspicious transactions and trends provided by law enforcement and regulators. These details, they claim, would give them better ideas on how to combat fraud. However, law enforcement officials remain reluctant to increase the transparency of their reports due to confidentiality and privacy issues. According to a study, up to 300,000 Suspicious Activity Reports are filed monthly in the U.S. and most of them remain uninvestigated.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9038>

12. *September 25, CNNMoney* – (National) **New Lincoln penny images spark debate.** The U.S. Mint announced the release of four different rotating designs for the 100th anniversary of the 1-cent coin portraying different aspects of Lincoln's life. The new designs will "replace the engraving of the Lincoln Memorial on the "tails" side of the coin. The famous profile of Lincoln will remain on the "heads" side of the coin." However, at a meeting held by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, authorities tasked with establishing the designs could not agree on which aspects of Lincoln's life should be represented. According to law, the Mint will review the Committee's recommendations, select the final designs, and forward them to the Treasury secretary. The supervisory program manager for design at the Mint noted that some of the designs discussed would require a larger-size coin. The new coins will be released in 2009.

Source:

http://money.cnn.com/2007/09/25/news/funny/lincoln_penny.ap/index.htm?postversion=2007092517

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *September 25, CNN* – (National) **Radar fails in Memphis; hundreds of flights affected.** A major telephone line failed yesterday in Memphis causing air controllers to lose communication with adjoining centers for several hours. According to the spokesman for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, "controllers were thrust into an immensely chaotic situation in which they had to use personal cell phones to talk to other air traffic control facilities about specific flights that they could not communicate with themselves." The consequences of the malfunction included flight delays at major airports around the country such as Dallas-Fort Worth, Atlanta, Georgia, and Charlotte, North Carolina; rerouting planes to adjacent centers; and long-term flight disruptions. Although the incident is pending investigation, officials stated that there is no indication the failure was the result of deliberate action.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/09/25/memphis.air.snafu/index.html>

14. *September 25, Bloomberg* – (New York) **New York plan to increase transit fares draws fire.** New York City officials are planning to raise transit fares to cover a budget gap and generate revenues for transportation infrastructure, but the alternatives offered came under attack by city and state comptrollers. According to the proposal, commuters would either pay 25 cents more for bus and subway rides and an extra 8 percent for trains, or maintain the same fares, but cancel the "20 percent bonus awarded to subway and bus riders who put more than \$10 on their pay-per-ride MetroCards in favor of a \$2 fare for rush-hour travel and \$1.50 for off-peak travel." If approved, the first option would generate a 4 percent increase in transit revenue, while the second option would offer a 6.5 to 8 percent raise. Although the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is urging New York City's residents to choose one of the options presented, the chairman of City Council's transportation committee is asking for additional alternatives that would not involve increased transit fares. New York City's commuters have not experienced an increase in transit fares since 2005. Public hearings on the controversial

plan will begin in November. If approved, the proposal will be implemented starting in March.
Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=a.COcSd88eOA&refer=us>

15. *September 25, Reuters* – (National) **Tunnel found under Mexico border crossing gate.** U.S. border officials announced the second discovery of a tunnel crossing under the U.S.-Mexico border in less than a week. The 30-foot long tunnel is the first one built directly underneath a crossing gate, according to officials. Law enforcement authorities did not identify the purpose of the tunnel and did not determine if it was dug for smuggling drugs or people. The tunnel was discovered at a check point in Arizona, the same state where border officials intercepted a smuggling tunnel last week. According to a report, “more than 40 tunnels connecting towns in Mexico and the United States have been discovered by police since the September 11, 2001, attacks.”

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2521094020070925>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *September 26, KGO TV* – (California) **Port of Oakland plays catch up after work stoppage.** The port of Oakland reopened Wednesday after a one-day shut down by union workers who were honoring a fellow worker killed there on Monday. Federal investigators are looking into the death of a longshoreman. Hundreds of container trucks were affected. Many drivers slept in their trucks, waiting for the port to re-open. The economic impact of the stoppage is not yet clear.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=local&id=5674613>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *September 26, Associated Press* – (New York) **Topps Meat Company recalls frozen hamburgers after six illnesses due to E. coli bacteria.** A meat company is voluntarily recalling some of its hamburgers after E. coli sickened at least six people in New York. The recall affects boxes of frozen hamburgers distributed by Elizabeth, N.J.-based Topps Meat Co. Contaminated burgers were found in one victim’s home freezer by health officials, said a Health Department spokeswoman. The recall affects 331,582 pounds of frozen beef patties that were distributed in the New York City area and nationwide, the USDA said. They carried the number “Est. 9748” inside the USDA mark of inspection, and were produced on June 22, July 12 or July 23, noted the same source. The recalled products included certain 10-pound boxes of Butcher’s Best 100% All Beef Patties; certain 10-pound boxes of Kohler Foods burgers; certain 10-pound boxes of Sand Castle Fine Meat; some 2-pound boxes of Topps 100% Pure Ground Beef Hamburgers; and some 3-pound boxes of Topps 100% Pure Ground Beef Hamburgers.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,298065,00.html>

18. *September 26, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FDA is expected to seek more food-safety**

powers. Following a series of recent food scares, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will likely seek additional powers to police food safety for the first time in years. The FDA's assistant commissioner told a House subcommittee that the agency now lacks the needed authority and may request such power in a new food-safety proposal. An FDA spokesman declined to elaborate what the new powers will be, but said the plan will be announced in four to six weeks. In his testimony, the FDA's point man to draft the plan said it will include three pieces: a proactive approach to prevent contamination, a risk-based inspection system to focus on troublesome products, and a faster response system to contamination.

Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119076524873739349.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

19. *September 26, Herald Times* – (Great Lakes region) **Climate change, VHS stress fisheries.** Global climate change and a recent influx of a deadly fish virus are stressing the Great Lakes fisheries, according the fisheries chief for the state Department of Natural Resources and a research scientist at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Climate change is increasing the heat on Great Lakes waters, lowering water levels and reducing ice coverage in the winter. As a result, the \$4 billion Great Lakes commercial and sport fisheries will see significant shifts. Cold water sport fish, such as lake trout and whitefish, will have to contend with a warmer habitat, suffer from lower population levels and likely will move to different locations in the lake. In addition to climate change, the Great Lakes fishery has to contend with other habitat stressors such as over-fishing, high contaminate levels and VHS, also known as viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), which was found in dead fish in Lake Winnebago and Lake Michigan. The virus can infect all fish types, and in April the DNR implemented emergency rules to prevent the virus' spread to other state waters. However, there are numerous ways for the virus to travel, one expert said, adding that once the virus is found it is unlikely to go away.

Source:

<http://www.htrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070926/MAN0101/709260523/1358/MANnews>

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Water Sector

20. *September 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Nutrient runoff deforming frogs.** In a report to be published in this week's online edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the link between nitrogen and phosphorous runoff and deformed frogs has been explained. The runoff increases the amount of algae present, which snails consume, resulting in a snail population boom. These snails host a parasite which, when released into ponds, can infect frog tadpoles and affect their developing limbs.

Source:

http://www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/science/09/25/deformed.frogs.ap/index.html?eref=rss_tech

21. *September 25, Charlotte Business Journal* – (North Carolina) **New water restrictions to take effect.** The ongoing drought along the Catawba River has led to more water-use restrictions in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Lawn watering is now prohibited, as is running ornamental fountains, residential car washing, and filling swimming pools. Violators of the new rules will face fines ranging from \$100 to \$600.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/stories/2007/09/24/daily16.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *September 26, Tulsa World* – (National) **U.S. expected to see bird flu pandemic soon.** A bird-flu pandemic is likely to reach U.S. shores in the next decade, a deputy state epidemiologist for the Oklahoma State Department of Health said Tuesday. She told the second annual Prevention Conference, being held in Tulsa through Wednesday, that any flu pandemic hitting the U.S. would most likely originate from bird influenza. She added that while prior to the last decade experts believed that bird flu would have mild affects on humans, “bells went off in 1997 when 18 people in Hong Kong contracted bird flu and six died from it.” Depending on its severity, a U.S. bird-flu pandemic could result in the infection of 43-100 million people, and the deaths of an estimated 89,000 to 207,000, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Between 314,000 and 733,000 Americans would be hospitalized, again depending on the severity of the outbreak, the deputy stated. The economic impact of a U.S. bird-flu pandemic is estimated between \$71 billion and \$166 billion, according to the same source.

Source: http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?articleID=070926_1_A9_spanc21461

23. *September 26, Medical News Today* – (New York) **New York criticizes feds for limiting Medicaid for illegal immigrants.** According to the *New York Times*, New York’s governor has called the new federal ruling that limits coverage of care for illegal immigrants “morally and clinically and legally wrong.” The row is over a new federal directive whereby the cost of chemotherapy for illegal immigrants with cancer will no longer qualify under Medicaid’s emergency program. Officials said the state would cover the costs – expected to be anywhere from \$5-\$10 million a year – regardless of changes in federal funding statutes, and reversing the stance of two weeks ago when they said the state could not pay the costs. Under current federal rules for Medicaid the cost of emergency treatment for illegal immigrants is split between state and federal funds. However, in November 2001, a new federal ruling stated that dialysis and chemotherapy were classed as treatments for chronic, non emergency conditions, and would not be covered. Since that time, New York has continued to file claims for about \$11 million, which the federal government is refusing to match because of the disagreement about what constitutes an emergency.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/83640.php>

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Government Facilities Sector

24. *September 26, The Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Shooting rocks Chester High.** Yesterday at a Philadelphia high school, a 16-year-old student shot a fellow student. An altercation had occurred between neighborhood groups. When the 17-year-old victim tried to leave the school, the 16-year-old was outside and shot him. The district superintendent met with principals in the area to discuss the incident.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/education/20070926_Shooting_rocks_Chester_High.html

25. *September 26, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Suicidal gunman reported at U. Wisconsin.** Evening classes at the University of Wisconsin-Madison were cancelled and the University Hospital discouraged visitors Tuesday evening. These measures were in response to a suspect with a history of mental illness, who “was serving a work-release jail term for armed robbery but who stopped reporting this month.” The County Crisis Center received a call Tuesday afternoon that there was “a person on top of the hospital's parking ramp who was apparently suicidal.” Later the police learned that “the person claimed to have a gun and intended to be killed by police.” Tuesday night the university decided there was no need to cancel Wednesday’s classes, but two mass emails were sent out and security measures on campus increased.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hPRcIzbK8wPB44xORtSuNCXQK7ww>

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *September 26, Village Soup* – (Maine) **Knox County emergency responders get good marks following disaster drill.** On September 22 emergency responders in Knox County, Maine underwent a disaster drill that simulated an explosion in the chemical laboratory at Rockland District High School. Emergency management officials also added two unexploded pipe bombs to the equation, one of which was hidden in the backpack of a supposedly wounded student. The drill included numerous fire departments and ambulance services, as well as the Knox County Sheriff's Office, the Rockland Police Department, the Knox County Hazardous Materials Mobile Response Unit and Penobscot Bay Medical Center. Less than three hours after the drill commenced at 9 a.m., the South Portland Homeland Security Director deemed it a success, albeit with some room for improvement. “We hit five or six major categories and scenarios and we met all the objectives within that time frame,” he said, “and basically, it went relatively well and was very well coordinated.” Two new components added to the Sept. 22 drill were the inclusion of the U.S. Coast Guard and the American Red Cross.

Source: <http://knox.villagesoup.com/Community/story.cfm?storyID=100313>

27. *September 25, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Hurricane recovery program short on cash.** A state program to help homeowners with hurricane damage will run out of money by year’s end unless Congress steps in to fill the gap, an official said Tuesday. About 90,000 homeowners will receive Road Home grants before the money runs out, potentially leaving as many as 76,000 eligible homeowners to go without, the head of the Louisiana Recovery Authority said. The program provides grants up to \$150,000 to homeowners with severe damage from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which pummeled parts of Louisiana in 2005. The \$7.4 billion program is funded mainly with federal recovery money. Half of that money has already been paid to homeowners, and the rest of the money is expected to be awarded by the end of December. The authority said the shortfall stems from a higher-than-anticipated number of eligible homeowners, worse damage than federal officials originally estimated and smaller-than-expected insurance payments.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-road-home,0,3319795.story>

28. *September 25, PR Newswire* – (Michigan) **Ad hoc committee on emergency fiscal**

management. A group of knowledgeable leaders, including former government officials, convened on Tuesday to discuss potential courses of action to avert the damage that would inevitably stem from a government shutdown. The group agreed that a legal authority does not exist for the state to make expenditures without a budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year. Any “shut-down” or failure to properly adopt a budget and operate within the constitution will have serious long-term and negative effects on the State of Michigan. Every participant agreed that it is in the best interest of the State that a budget be adopted and signed by the Governor prior to Friday, the last business day of this fiscal year. However, the group did identify several short-term measures that could be undertaken if a budget is not adopted by Friday. These measures would minimize, but not eliminate the damage that a shutdown would cause to the state’s reputation; to businesses conducting commerce in the state; to citizens relying on government services; and to creditors of the state and to state employees. The group will outline these options, all of which are regarded as last resorts, in a memorandum for release by Thursday.

Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/09-25-2007/0004669960&EDATE>

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Information Technology

29. *September 25, CNet News* – (National) **OpenOffice bug hits multiple operating systems.**

Researchers at iDefense have discovered that OpenOffice version 2.0.4 and earlier versions are vulnerable to maliciously crafted TIFF files, which can be delivered in an e-mail attachment, published on a Web site or shared using peer-to-peer software. In June, OpenOffice users were warned about a worm called “Badbunny” that was spreading in the wild through multiple operating systems, including Mac OS, Windows and Linux. At the time, Symantec posted an advisory that said: “A new worm is being distributed within malicious OpenOffice documents. The worm can infect Windows, Linux and Mac OS X systems. Be cautious when handling OpenOffice files from unknown sources.” The next version of OpenOffice, which is a free, open-source office productive software package, arrived on September 17 and is not affected by the flaw.

Source: http://www.news.com/OpenOffice-bug-hits-multiple-operating-systems/2100-1002_3-6209919.html?tag=cd.lede

30. *September 26, IDG News Service* – (National) **AIM vulnerable to worm attack, researchers warn.** A critical flaw in the way that the AOL’s instant messaging client displays Web-based graphics could be exploited by criminals to create a self-copying worm attack, security researchers are warning. The flaw was discovered by researchers at Core Security Technologies Inc., which has been working with AOL over the past few weeks to patch the problem. AOL’s servers are now filtering instant messaging traffic to intercept any attacks, but the company has yet to patch the underlying problem in its client software, security researchers said Tuesday. The flaw has to do with the way the AOL Instant Messaging (AIM) software uses Internet Explorer’s software to render HTML messages. By sending a maliciously encoded HTML message to an AIM user, an attacker could run unauthorized software on a victim’s computer or force the IE browser to visit a maliciously encoded Web page, said a Core Chief Technology Officer. This type of flaw could be exploited to create a self-

replicating worm attack. “The frightening thing about this vulnerability is that it can be easily exploited to create a massive IM worm, because it doesn’t require any user interaction,” said an IT security expert. No attacks based on these flaws have been reported.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9038962&intsrc=news_ts_head

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

31. *September 25, Memphis Business Journal* – (Tennessee) **Telecom glitch stops departures at Memphis International.** The Federal Aviation Administration's air route traffic control center in Memphis experienced a communications failure at 11:30 a.m on Tuesday, standing hundreds of passengers. According to an FAA spokesman, “several radar systems were impacted when the telecom lines that feed the center failed.” The center is one of 20 across the nation and is responsible for a 250-mile radius. The air route traffic control center communicates with all flights originating within that radius and those flying over the area. Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/memphis/stories/2007/09/24/daily12.html>

32. *September 24, AT&T press release* – (National) **AT&T wins deal to build next-generation enterprise network for U.S. Department of the Treasury.** AT&T Inc. has announced a task order potentially worth up to \$1 billion from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to build and transition the Department to a next-generation enterprise network known as Treasury Network (TNet). TNet is a secure enterprise network that will facilitate the convergence of data, voice and video technologies into a single network infrastructure that supports the efficient operation of applications and services across the Treasury’s entire operating environment. The \$270 million task order awarded to AT&T could be worth up to \$1 billion with enhanced services and other options over the life of the contract. The TNet order has a time frame of 10 years, which includes a four-year base with three two-year options.

Source:

<http://www.att.com/gen/press-room?pid=4800&cdvn=news&newsarticleid=24427>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *September 25, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Stores evacuated after bank robber leaves hoax explosive.** A strip mall in Manchester, New Hampshire, was evacuated and a day care center locked down Tuesday after a robber ran from a bank and left behind a device that he said was explosive. Police say the device was a hoax – a box with lights that was made to

look like a bomb. The Pine Island Plaza on Brown Avenue, which includes about 20 businesses, was evacuated and the nearby New Beginnings Child Center locked down as a bomb squad investigated the device. No one was hurt.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2007/09/25/stores_evacuated_after_bank_robber_leaves_hoax_explosive/

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *September 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Scientists: Rising seas will flood historic sites.** Rising oceans will probably engulf several sites of national importance. For instance, both Jamestown and the Florida launch pad that sent the first American into orbit are predicted to be underwater within 100 years by many climate scientists. The sea level is expected to rise by one meter within the next century, and preserving current structures and infrastructure near the coast will be expensive. According to the director of the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth at the University of Arizona, “one meter of sea level rise in just the lower 48 states would put about 25,000 square miles under water.” The EPA states that even some inland areas like “Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia...have slivers of at-risk land.” Other experts said that “protecting America's coastlines would run well into the billions and not all spots could be saved.”

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/science/09/24/rising.seas.ap/index.html>

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Dams Sector

35. *September 26, Missouri Ruralist* – (Missouri) **Lock and dam win.** The Water Resources Development Act of 2007, recently passed by Congress, will provide funding for improvements to the Depression-era Upper Mississippi River lock and dam system. The river provides an important route for farmers and grain marketers. The improvements will allow them greater access to international markets, both for exporting their crops and for importing commodities such as building materials and petroleum products. The bill still needs to be signed by President Bush before it becomes law.

Source: <http://missouriruralist.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=30136&fpstid=2>

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